

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, May 28, 2013
5:00 PM

Present: Audrey Murphy, J. Tibbetts, MD, Harold Pfothauer, Patricia Bacelis-Leon

Excused: Don Murray

Staff Present: Judy Friederichs, John Paul

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

To approve the revised agenda: Van Deurzen / Bacelis-Leon

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January 8, 2013

Dr. Tibbetts recommended a correction to the spelling of Richard James' title. He is not a PhD, but should have I.N.C.E. (Institute of Noise-Control Engineering) after his name.

To approve with correction: Pfothauer / Bacelis-Leon

MOTION CARRIED

4. ODOR COMPLAINTS

John Paul distributed the department's call list for odor complaints. 25 calls have come in so far this year, 21 of which were related to Sanimax. 8 of the 21 complaints were verified.

Audrey asked what happened on May 2nd that prompted several complaints. Sanimax reported that one of their scrubbers was not working. John stated that there were 2 calls that day – 1 of which was verified.

Audrey said that the Board of Health had recommended that the number of verified complaints required for a citation should be changed from 3 to 2 – what has happened with that. Judy stated that the Human Services committee has deferred this to the July meeting to give Sanimax a chance to resolve any equipment issues. Sanimax is to attend the July Human Services meeting to report on their progress, at which time the committee will make a decision on any changes to the ordinance.

Judy had some calls from Supervisors questioning the procedure for responding to odor complaints. She reviewed the complaint reports that staff have completed and discovered that many of the complaints had been received by email. When a local DNR employee recently retired, he sent a letter to a group of people who had registered complaints about odor to him telling them to use the Health Department website to report any future odor complaints. Judy drafted a letter to those same people as well as local officials letting them know how to contact the Health Department with complaints since the department email is not intended to be for urgent or time-sensitive communication.

Dr. Tibbetts asked what is done when a sanitarian responds to a complaint and does not verify the odor coming from the address that was reported but notes the odor somewhere else. John said that the ordinance indicates that the odor must be verified at the address that the complaint came from – the sanitarian will include in his/her report that the odor was not verified at the address but was noted at another location. Corporation Counsel has advised that a sanitarian cannot be the source of a complaint. Judy has asked her to clarify whether in this instance the odor that was noted en route to a complaint could be used to verify the complaint.

Judy said that the sanitarians respond to complaints as quickly as possible. But, if they are on another urgent call or in the middle of an inspection, there may be a delay in their response. Since the department can't afford to pay staff to be on-call, response times may also be delayed for after-hours calls while the answering service works to contact staff to respond.

Audrey asked if any of the sanitarians live outside of Brown County. John said that two of them do live outside of the county and another one lives on the very edge of the county.

Dr. Tibbetts said that he understands that there are issues that might delay response and that the sanitarians have other work to do – but there must be something the department can do to finally address this issue. Judy stated again that some of the delays have been due to the way the complaints were submitted (by email).

Audrey asked when Judy expects a response from Corporation Counsel. Judy said that she can't predict when that will happen, but that Corp Counsel is now reviewing and signing all county contracts, MOUs, etc. – so there is a backlog of work in her office.

Audrey said that at this point there isn't really anything the Board of Health can do without guidance from Corporation Counsel and the Human Services Committee. Joe asked Judy to follow up with Corp Counsel on this request.

Audrey asked John why two of the complaints don't have a time noted on them. John said that he would have to go back and look but that sanitarians will not put a time on the complaint form if it was not included with the original complaint.

5. UPDATES: WIND TURBINE ISSUE / HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 2-26-13

Judy said that at the February 26th meeting, the committee was tied on their response to the request to fund Richard James' services. The County Board subsequently approved the request. Dr. Tibbetts said that the citizen's group is still in discussions with Mr. James regarding this.

Dr. Tibbetts said that the Board of Health in Manitowoc County passed a resolution supporting Brown County's resolution asking for more testing for the Shirley Wind Project. The Manitowoc County Board approved the resolution 17-2. Dr. Tibbetts further stated that latest issue of *The Canadian Family Physician* referenced action by the Brown County Board of Health in an article regarding the adverse health effects of turbines. Finally, Paul Schomer has done an analysis of the Shirley project as far as the more recent study results. He was interested in using the endpoint of nausea. Dr. Tibbetts went over all of the affidavits and could only find 5 out of the 50 that used the word "nausea." Mr. Schomer said that 10% is pretty typical but he feels that there must be something really wrong if people are leaving their homes.

Further studies are in the works with the Mayo Clinic and the Environmental Protection Authority of South Australia. The Australian study will be an expansion of a smaller study that they completed in January that showed no health effects by turbines that were all over a mile from residents. The state of Michigan is now saying "not so fast" to local rules regarding siting of turbines. The state is working toward universal siting similar to Wisconsin's.

Dr. Tibbetts read an article recently about childhood asthma and the relationship with road contamination. He wondered if a similar study could be done in relation to turbines.

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Audrey referenced a letter to the Board from Roger Cimbalo regarding his problem with noise from Highway 41 construction. Dr. Tibbetts said that he feels that Mr. Cimbalo's intent was just to let someone know about this problem. He does not feel that it's necessary to send a response.

MOTION: To receive and place on file. Van Deurzen / Bacelis

MOTION CARRIED

7. STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Judy Knudsen stated that she had been contacted by Judy Friederichs to do some strategic planning for the Health Department. The first step was for the staff to work through a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats). There was good participation by staff. The next step was for staff to volunteer to review the department's vision and mission statement. Staff will also be working on defining the department's values. Judy and Judy will be pulling together a group of stakeholders to have them work through the SWOT analysis as another tool for the department to review.

Judy worked through the SWOTS process with Board members. The results of that exercise are attached.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judy said that there is not much of a communicable disease report. There is no exceptional activity at this point.

John Paul is retiring as of August 16th – the request to fill the position has been approved and recruitment for John's replacement will begin soon. Audrey stated that John has served the department well. Juli Gray will also be leaving to relocate to Iowa for her husband's job. Paula Van Ess will be going on maternity leave any day now. A temporary staff person will cover for Paula during her leave.

De Pere City Council has elected to keep their health department but turn the inspection program back to the state. Dr. Tibbetts asked if the state would inspect the festivals. Judy said that they do some inspections but it's not clear whether they do any on the weekend. De Pere is recruiting right now to fill their Health Officer position.

The building that houses the Health Department has been taken over by the bank. We are in the process of getting a new air conditioner.

The Health Department was called upon to provide mutual aid to the Sheboygan Health Department for their TB outbreak. We are not sending staff to Sheboygan right now but we did at the beginning of the outbreak.

The Health Department was activated in response to the apartment building fire in Allouez. Judy was in the Emergency Operations Center while several nurses helped to staff the emergency shelter at Langlade School. A sanitarian also went out to make sure that the food services process was properly set up for residents.

The county is doing a wage comparison study right now which required all staff to fill out forms regarding their work load, responsibilities, etc. Human Resources will then do a market analysis.

The Vision Van was located in the parking lot recently. Vision Van staff served a number of low-income individuals including providing needed glasses while they waited.

Staff have been working on increasing the department's social media presence. In addition to posting information about department services, there are opportunities for people to participate by answering trivia questions and entering small contests.

9. ALL OTHER BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Dr. Tibbetts asked what the history was behind a letter of support sent by the Health Department regarding federal Medicaid funding. Judy said that she had been contacted by a County Board member asking for her to write a letter indicating public health's support for providing healthcare to people in need. Dr. Tibbetts said that he sees this as a policy issue. Judy said that she sees it as a concept statement – and the concept of the Health Department is to help people with healthcare access. She was making a statement indicating the general public health position of providing healthcare to as many people as possible.

Dr. Tibbetts said that he is upset about the letter. With the governor not supporting this funding because of concerns about funding after the initial three years of full federal funding, there is a question about this as a policy issue. Judy said that she can't imagine a situation where public health would not be supportive of any opportunity to increase healthcare access. In fact, there is some discussion about whether the Health Department will be approached to be a "navigator" for the new healthcare exchanges.

Audrey asked, if this is policy, should it have been run past the Board. Judy said that she responded to the request because she feels that it fits with the department's core principles. Dr. Tibbetts said that the County Board did

shoot the resolution down. He doesn't know what can be done on a local level and feels that the federal government is making it harder rather than easier for people to have access to healthcare.

Judy said that if the request for the letter hadn't been made on such short notice, she would not have been ashamed to bring it to the board for their review.

10. ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING JULY 30, 2013

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:49 PM Pfothenhauer / Tibbetts

MOTION CARRIED

SWOT Analysis with Brown County Board of Health

May 2013

Strengths

- Health awareness – attention to health of community.
- Staff are knowledgeable, hard working.
- Families rely on services offered by the Health Department. Staff serve as contact for those with health care needs.
- Good cooperation with hospitals.

Weaknesses

- Difficulty keeping Board of Health members.
- Low meeting attendance by Board of Health members.
- Diverse representation needed on the Board of Health.
- Community involvement.
- Lack of knowledge about Department's services and expertise.
- Phone system is a challenge.
- Department does not always have a welcoming environment for customers.
- Ability to recover cost of services provided.
- Funding cuts.

Opportunities

- Build stronger relationships with the community and county.
- Improve phone system.
- Customer service.
- New location.
- Work together with others in the community.

Threats

- Obama Care – cost, requirements, lack of national consensus.
- Brown County does not own building. Need for a permanent home. Lack of visibility.
- Funding.
- Politicians – need to reallocate funding.
- Doctor shortage. Fill in with other staff i.e. Physician Assistants.
- Nurse's shortage.